

Message Text

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42

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /030 W
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P R 271208Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2909
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 0882

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (BINGHAM, JONATHAN)

SUBJ: CODEL BINGHAM

REF: (A) STATE 065443, (B) BUDAPEST 799

1. SEMINAR DESCRIBED BUDAPEST 429 STILL ON SCHEDULE. RESPONSE TO INVITATIONS HAS BEEN EXCELLENT. SEMINAR WILL OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR CLOSE CONTACT WITH WELL-INFORMED HUNGARIANS. MEETINGS WITH STUDENTS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO ORGANIZE IN HUNGARY BUT VISIT TO PANNONHALMA MAY PROVIDE SOME EXPOSURE TO "ORDINARY CITIZENS".

2. RE VISIT TO PANNONHALMA WE ARE TRYING TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS. TOWN LIES TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS DRIVE FROM BUDAPEST TOWARDS NORTHWEST IN ZONE ORDINARILY CLOSED TO AMERICANS. FONOFF IS PREPARED TO WAIVE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS BUT MAIN DIFFICULTY IS WORKING OUT SUITABLE LODGING. SINCE PANNONHALMA HAS NO HOTELS, CODEL WOULD HAVE TO OVERNIGHT IN GYOR WHICH HAS SIMPLE BUT ADEQUATE HOTEL FACILITIES BY EASTERN EUROPEAN STANDARDS. BECAUSE OF LIKELIHOOD THAT AT LEAST ONE MEETING WITH HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY MORNING, SATURDAY SEEMS MOST FEASIBLE DAY FOR PANNONHALMA VISIT. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING IF CONGRESSMAN WHALEN WILL ACCOMPANY CONGRESSMAN AND MRS. BINGHAM TO APNNONHALMA. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE OFFICER FOR VISIT TO PANNONHALMA.

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3. EMBASSY HAS RESERVED TWO CARS WITH DRIVERS FOR CODEL. SHALL WE KEEP THESE RESERVATIONS OR WILL ONE CAR WITH DRIVER BE SUFFICIENT IN VIEW OF CANCELLATION BUDAPEST PORTION OF TRIP BY CONGRESSMAN BIESTER?

4. AS NOTED REFTEL B FIRM SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS WITH HUNGARIANS MAY NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL APRIL 1-2 TIME FRAME. SHOULD IT TURN OUT THAT NO MEETINGS ARRANGED ON SUNDAY (WHICH SEEMS UNLIKELY TO US), CODEL COULD MAKE TRIP TO PANNONHALMA SUNDAY AND STILL BE BACK IN GOOD TIME FOR SEMINAR SCHEDULED FOR 1900 HOURS.

5. AS EMBASSY MUST REQUEST PERMISSION FROM MFA FOR EMBASSY OFFICER TO VISIT CLOSED AREA (PANNONHALMA) BY END OF WEEK, REQUEST CODEL INFORM US SOONEST WHETHER OR NOT STILL WISH TO TRAVEL TO PANNONHALMA.
MUDD

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